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THE COMMERCIAL CLUB TAKES LEASE

Gas was downed yesterday in order that the Commercial Club might live. It will be remembered that at a meeting of that organization the other day it was decided to reject the lease for the club's quarters in the new McCandless building at the corner of King and Bethel streets. The reason for this action was the insistence by the McCandless brothers that only electricity should be used for illuminating purposes. The club had no particular objection to the use of electricity, but they did not want to be told that they would use electric lights or go around in the dark.

After it was decided by a small majority to reject the lease, a fear sprang up in the breasts of a few of the members that the organization might disband in the event of suitable quarters not being found at an early date. Several places were suggested, but nothing that was suitable was available, consequently a movement tending to a reconsideration of the vote was started. It was shown to one of those who voted against the acceptance of the lease that the owners of the building had yielded every point until it came to the question of lighting, and there Mr. McCandless, who is president of the Hawaiian Electric Light Co., balked. When this was made clear to the members he said he would propose a reconsideration of the vote if a meeting was called.

The time set was four o'clock yesterday afternoon, and beside a liberal attendance of the members, there were proxies to burn, and every one in favor of reconsideration. In order that the matter might be brought before the meeting, Mr. von Holt moved that a committee be appointed to select a new site for the club's quarters. There was a lively discussion of this question before a vote was taken and in the meantime Mr. Lydecker moved that the vote at the previous session be reconsidered. The chair informed the mover that another motion was before the house, and it must be disposed of before another could have attention. The first was then put and Messrs. von Holt and Morgan were the only persons voting for it. Then the Lydecker motion to reconsider was put by the chair and seconded by Mr. von Holt. When the vote was taken Mr. Morgan and the second were the only persons voting in the negative. This having carried, a motion by Mr. Reidford to make a lease for the McCandless building was put and carried. Messrs. von Holt and Morgan voting against.

By a unanimous opinion of the Supreme Court, written by Justice Hartwell, Judge Robinson's decree of foreclosure in the suit of August Dreier v. John D. Holt Jr. et al., is affirmed.

ROOSEVELT'S OPPOSITION

(Mail Correspondence to the Advertiser.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 23.—Politically, the Christmas holidays are filled with hostile preparations. The days that should have flown by with pleasant greetings are spent in office and library, digging for data. Clerks are scurrying. No curtailed working hours for them. There is serious business ahead.

All this because President Roosevelt has discharged without honor three companies, constituting a battalion of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, which is a negro regiment, and because Senator Foraker, "Fire-alarm" Foraker, as he was known in the earlier days, has taken up the popular agitation against the President's action. "The country," as the domain of the United States of America outside the District of Columbia is termed here, seems to be taking the matter rather seriously. The less than ten miles square of land which comprises the national capital and the District of Columbia thinks it is a mighty serious thing. Everybody is agog with more or less excitement. The brigade of long noses sent a row. A row of almost any kind interests Washington.

The quarrel was shaping up several weeks ago, but it had slumbered along in the Senate till it began to seem like an affair for some time after the holidays. But Senator Foraker is nothing if not aggressive. Securing the floor the very last day before the adjournment, he spoke to his resolution requiring an investigation of the discharge of the soldiers alleged to have been implicated in the "shooting up" of Brownsville, Texas. His speech was a firebrand. Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, as the President's defender, but claiming only fair play for the President and all concerned, hit back in the liveliest kind of fashion. The Senate adjourned that day in a ferment.

Then came the shooting in Oklahoma of Captain Edgar A. Macklin, who had been officer of the day when the Brownsville affray occurred. An assassin called the captain to the back door and several shots were poured into his body. President Roosevelt had already been stirred with resentment at the attack upon himself by Senator Foraker. It made him long for a chance to have it out with the Senator, and hardly had the Senate adjourned before orders went over to the War Department, which is just across the street from the White House offices, to "get busy" and dig out the records on cases that Senator Foraker had been citing. The argument of the brilliant orator and resourceful lawyer had struck home to the White House.

PRESIDENT WORKED UP. But the shooting of Captain Macklin was more than the President could stand. There were fireworks around the White House offices the morning the newspaper dispatches told about it. The President believes it was, in part at least, the outgrowth of the agitation against the discharge of the troops. He blames Senator Foraker and he blames Gilchrist Stewart of the New York Constitutional League. But he did not rest quiet with expressions of resentment. He called in Secretary of State Root, who was once Secretary of War, and Secretary of War Taft. The two trudged over to the White House early in a day that everybody supposed would be a very quiet and uneventful day, being the last Saturday before Christmas.

Around Washington, especially in government circles, it is something of an offense to work on the streets before Christmas when Christmas comes early the following week. However, the President meant business, and he had important things to talk over with the two Secretaries. He must have new evidence, for he intends to meet the issue with Senator Foraker squarely. The three talked it over, and Milton D. Purdy, who has the official title of Assistant to the Attorney General, where the other assistants are known as Assistant Attorneys General, was picked as the best man. Mr. Purdy is a shrewd and an able man than he looks. He is smooth of face, but bespectacled, and would pass in a crowd for a young man of 30 or 35. He has more years than that to his credit. He is nearer forty, but while that is young in a comparative sense, Mr. Purdy is old in trust busting. He began grappling with the tentacles of the octopus way back in the days of the Northern Securities case. Then he was a lawyer in Minnesota, served as United States District Attorney, and the Attorney General brought him down to Washington and put him in the Department of Justice. He continued to grapple the tentacles of the octopus, every time one was thrust within view of the department, and continued also to give a good account of himself in the struggle. Eventually there was a vacancy in the office of Assistant to the Attorney General, which office was created to have immediate supervision over trust busting. He has served there for fully three years and what there is about trust busting that Mr. Purdy does not know is hardly worth knowing. During the past six or eight months he has had supervision over the preparation of civil and criminal suits against the Standard Oil Company and has made all the cases ready for the eye of the Attorney General. He knows how to get evidence, is aware what evidence is necessary in a given case, and can also get it into presentable form.

Accordingly, as Senator Foraker declares to the country that the evidence on which the President acted was insufficient, the President proposes to have the evidence gathered in affidavit form by an expert. He could not have set a more expert official at the work, unless, perhaps, he wished to send one of his own cabinet. Mr. Purdy has been traveling to Brownsville, Texas, by the swiftest possible trains. He will work with all the energy there is in him, for the President wants the evidence back here and ready for use by January 3 next, which is the day when Congress reassembles and when

Senator Foraker is expected to open again with his legal rapid-fire batteries.

FORAKER GETTING READY.

In the meantime Senator Foraker is preparing himself for the clash. He will have to fight singlehanded. Some Senators will come to his aid, but in the main he must rely upon himself. He will hardly shrink from the test, for he loves to fight. The Senate probably has no lawyer able to cope with him and that is decidedly his advantage. But back of the President and back of the Senators who support him are a trio of very astute lawyers—Secretaries Root and Taft and Attorney General Bonaparte. Their fortunes are with the President in this matter. It is to their interest, almost as much as to the President's, to "do" Senator Foraker good and hard. The President is not a lawyer, although he has acquired a lot of legal acumen since he took up the trust cases. His advisers, of course, can be depended on to supply him with advice and strategy in meeting the aggressive Ohioan.

The spectacular part of the controversy for a time will be in the Senate. But the fight will almost certainly be transferred from that forum to an investigation committee. Witnesses will be summoned. Senator Foraker will undoubtedly be at the table to examine and cross-examine, and there will be a struggle for the kernels of truth. Captain "Bill" McDonald, of the Texas Rangers, who takes the President's side of the affair, announces that he would go forty miles out of his way to be cross-examined by Senator Foraker. "Bill" is a great character and sharp of tongue. It would be a great scene with Senator Foraker plying him with questions and "Bill" giving it back to him with all the spirit of the freedom-loving Texan. The Senate investigating committee will almost certainly call "Bill" to go 200 miles out of his way by coming to Washington, which will be all the more agreeable to "Bill," because he will have mileage—a fat consideration—and a chance to visit the national capital.

The investigation is likely to last through much of the session of Congress, if there is an investigation, and many are now convinced that there will be one. With such political giants in opposing roles, none of them is likely to rest till the last resource has been exhausted. If Senator Foraker can bring it out that most of the colored soldiers are innocent, or that all of them are innocent—something he does not say and never has claimed with any certainty—he will have proved that the President did not proceed as carefully and as thoroughly as he should have done. Then the Ohio Senator and his friends would be triumphant. But if the investigation fails to develop any additional evidence of importance and the President sustains his case, he will have the laugh on the Buckeye lawmaker; and a big figure in Republican politics, who is credited with ambitions to reach the White House, will have a reverse.

The whole controversy over the Brownsville affray is thought to be important in the making and the unmaking of Presidents. It may not look that way at first, but it will, when the year or two hence, when the country can get the retrospect. With eyes to the front now, however, the aspirants think it is very important. The President thinks so, or is beginning to think so. The politicians see that if Senator Foraker can get the negro vote solidly behind him, as will likely be the case, he will be a factor of added influence in the next national convention.

RENOMINATION CHANCES.

Men are already saying that the President can not be renominated, even should he wish another term. He sincerely does not wish another term and will not accept it. But there has arisen such hostility to him in many quarters that the party leaders would hesitate to take a man who would have difficulty in polling the negro vote, which holds the balance of power in a number of states extending from the Atlantic seaboard to the Mississippi river. By the same token it will become increasingly difficult for Mr. Roosevelt to dictate the name of his successor, as he would undoubtedly like to do. The same negro resentment for President Roosevelt is now shared for Secretary Taft. It looks as though the firing of fifty rifle shots in the obscure town of Brownsville, Tex., one night last August, had also put him out of the presidential running. Such an outcome would immensely help Senator Foraker, for it will likely leave him a clear field with no real opposition.

The Ohioans in Washington say that the President's course is bound to help Senator Foraker, whatever happens with reference to the investigation. The attack the President has made upon the 60th Ohio regiment, whose discharge he cited as a precedent upholding his discharge of the colored battalion of the 25th Infantry, will also help the senator in Ohio. It happens that in September, 1861, when that regiment was camped in Highland County, Ohio, Mr. Foraker, then a very young man, applied to be enlisted. Its officers would not accept him because he was under age and it was a year later before he did enlist.

The regiment was enlisted for one year. Although the men were enlisted in September, 1861, they were not formally taken into the service of the Federal government till the following February. The regiment moved South, saw active service, was captured and its men subsequently paroled and sent north. When September, 1862, came around the enlisted men insisted on being discharged. Their officers, however, being in receipt of large pay for those days, took every possible advantage of the fact that the regiment had not been accepted by the government till February and therefore insisted that the term of enlistment did not expire till February, 1863. The men resisted that. They were riotous and mutinous and behaved so badly that they were eventually discharged.

Naturally all the veterans of that regiment, many of whom survive, and all their friends are not thinking kindly of the President for dragging that affair of nearly forty-five years ago into the record of the Brownsville affray. When Senator Foraker again secures the floor he will have a lot to say about that feature of the case. He had something to say about it when he was speaking last week but did not exhaust the subject.

There are a number of Republican

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Senators who would like to use the Brownsville affair as an instrument for embarrassing the President and thus for evening up some of the old scores they have against him. They see that they have nothing to lose in it and everything to gain, while the President has little to gain and a great deal to lose, for he would be humiliated if the last half of his administration demonstrated his unpopularity and his inability to keep his party in line in Congress. Heretofore the President has been able to drive the Senate and House to the execution of his will in the making of laws because he advocated laws that were supported by the country. Now it is not a question of law making but a question of righting an alleged wrong and, on the surface, the sentiment of the country seems to be that the President has been acting hastily. So all the conditions are favorable to the Republican recalcitrants.

WILL AFFECT LEGISLATION.

Revolts against President Roosevelt have broken out heretofore at the beginning of a session. He has always been able to whip the kickers into line within a few weeks, or at best, a few months, whereupon the revolt speedily died. There is now every indication that the present revolt—for there is a big revolt back of the hostile demonstration Senator Foraker is making—will last through the session. Its effect will be felt upon the legislation of the session, for the Senate has always followed the President grudgingly. The House is also in a mood to do a little rebelling.

All this attitude means that the President's pet measures will have a hard time in Congress this winter and that Senate and House will hold down to the enactment of appropriation bills and not much else. There has been indifference about legislating for the first three weeks of the session for a purpose. There will also be indifference about legislating for a week or two after Congress reconvenes in January. Like a great lazy boy the legislative branches will get down to serious business only when the sun is setting over into the afternoon sky and they become aware that there is only time for them to do what there remains to do by the most persistent industry. That kind of a status enables the leaders in Senate and House to kill off any measure that is objectionable to any of them. There is no time for bills, outside of appropriations, that must be discussed and a show of opposition suffices to send a measure back into the pigeon hole to stay. Whatever work may have been done on it during the present Congress then has to be done all over again in the next Congress.

The dolings and undolings of the next two months are likely to clear the political sky perceptibly. The hostility of organized labor to Speaker Cannon and the inability of the Speaker to administer a drubbing to President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor at the beginning of the session, demonstrated clearly that Mr. Cannon could not hope to be a Presidential candidate. Now it is likely that the Brownsville incident, having become of national interest, will eliminate Secretary Taft or Senator Foraker from the Presidential running. It may eliminate both of them. Such things make those aspirants who have not been drawn into the maelstrom of recent national affairs exceedingly cheerful during the Christmas days.

ERNEST G. WALKER.

VISITING JOURNALIST ENTERTAINED AT LUNCH

A luncheon was given yesterday by Governor Carter to H. T. Wills, a representative of the New York Commercial, one of the leading trade journals of America, and his private secretary, Mr. Rogers. Those present at the luncheon in addition to the Governor and the two guests of honor, were E. I. Spaulding, G. W. Smith, E. H. Paris, A. Gantley, A. Paxton, J. R. Galt and Secretary Atkinson.

All present are interested in the proposed Pan-Pacific Conference and an informal discussion of the matter was indulged in. Mr. Wills expressing his interest in the project and listening to the various ideas advanced by the other guests.

The accident occurred early yesterday morning, death coming to the little victim shortly before twelve o'clock. There will be no inquest, the coroner deeming such unnecessary.

CROUP.

A reliable medicine and one that should always be kept in the home for immediate use is Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It will prevent the attack if given as soon as the child becomes hoarse, or even after the croupy cough appears. There is no danger in giving it to children, for it contains no opium or other harmful drug. For sale by Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaii.

REGULATIONS MAKE TROUBLE

The new set of regulations governing shipments via the Tehuantepec route have been received at the Custom House. Had the regulations arrived some days ago, before the S. S. Arizona was cleared, their enforcement might have caused considerable trouble to the local customs officials.

Under the provisions of the new regulations it would seem that it was required of the inspectors at this port to check every piece of cargo that was loaded into vessels bound for Salina Cruz. Inasmuch as two or more hatches are constantly worked aboard the big American-Hawaiian freight steamers loading sugar during their stay in this port and at other island ports, the customs inspectors would have a very laborious task. In fact the work that such application of the regulations would involve would more than tax the present force of inspectors. At least four or more extra men would be required on duty during every day and night that the vessels were in port. Such an enforcement of the regulations would seem to be unnecessary and, incidentally, expensive.

Inasmuch as the cargoes have to be checked at both sides of the Mexican coast, an additional checking at any Hawaiian port would appear to be useless. It is more than probable, however, that the new regulations, which bear the date of December 15, 1906, were intended to apply to the transfer and shipment aboard the cars in Mexico and not at Honolulu or any other island port.

Acting Collector Stackable declined to make any statement yesterday afternoon, relative to this feature of the new regulations and the possible annoyance that its application might cause his force.

The Arizona was cleared here before the new set of regulations were received from Washington, so there has been no opportunity of putting them into operation. If the regulations should be given the literal application that their provisions would imply, it would cause a great deal of trouble to all parties concerned, in Hawaii.

A LITTLE CHILD GETS FATAL BURNS

Rebecca Kelley, the six-year old daughter of Frank and Annie Kelley, of Gulick avenue, died yesterday forenoon at the Queen's Hospital, the result of severe burns accidentally received some hours before. The little one suffered extremely, death coming as a welcome relief, the hospital doctors having held out no hope to the parents that the child could recover, although doing everything in their power to relieve the agony and save the young life.

Rebecca had been left alone in the house, the mother having gone for the moment to a neighbor's, when she attempted to start a fire with kerosene in the cookstove. In some manner the oil exploded, setting fire to the child's clothing, and by the time the mother returned the clothing had been consumed and the child was terribly burned. A summons for a doctor was sent immediately, Dr. C. B. Cooper answering the call and doing what was possible. The ambulance was also telephoned for and the little sufferer taken to the hospital.

The accident occurred early yesterday morning, death coming to the little victim shortly before twelve o'clock. There will be no inquest, the coroner deeming such unnecessary.